Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Leconte, Jos.—The Relation of Evolution to Religious Thought. From the author.

Kimball, J. P.—Annual Report of the Director of the Mint. 1886. From the Director.

Biological Society of Washington.—Proceedings, vol. iii. July 1, 1884, to February 6, 1886. From the Society.

Rothpletz, A.—Geologisch-paläontologische Monographie der Vilser Alpen. 1886.

Pavlov, A.—Les Ammonites de la zone à Aspidoceras Acanthicum. Mém. du Comité Géologique St. Petersbourg, 1886.—Sur l'histoire de la faune Kimmeridienne de la Russe.—Les Ammonites du groupe Olcostephanus versicolor. Moscow, 1886. All from the author.

Leche, W.—Ueber die Saugethieregattung Galeopithecus. Stockholm, 1886. From the author.

Heilprin, A.—Explorations of the West Coast of Florida. 1886. From the author.

Dugès, A.—El *Trombidium dubrueilli*, nov. sp. From the author.

Wright, R. R.—On the Skull and Auditory Organ of Hypophthalmus. Trans. Roy. Soc. Can., 1885. From the author.

Andreæ, A.—Ueber das elsässische Tertiär und seine Petroleumlager.—Ueber Meeressand und Septarienthon.—Ueber das Alter des Melamerikalkes, etc. All from the author.

Wortman, J. L.—Comparative Anatomy of the Teeth of the Vertebrata. 1886. From the author.

Jordan, D. S.—Fishes collected at Beaufort, S. C.—Fishes collected at Havana, Cuba. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. From the author.

GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.

General.—It is pointed out by Ed. Heawood, in a recent number of the *Proc. Roy. Geog. Soc.*, that the relations of length of the eight principal rivers given by General Tillo would be greatly altered were the general course taken, and the minor tortuosities left out. The Nile would unquestionably then be the longest river (3100 miles), the Yang-tse-Kiang (2750) and Yenesei (2700) would exceed the Amazons (2600), and this the Mississippi (2500), while the Congo would equal the Mississippi, and the Amur (2200) and Mackenzie (1800) would come after the Hoang-Ho, Obi-Irtish, Lena, and Mekong.

America. MOUNTS HOOD, ST. ELIAS, AND WRANGEL.—Heights of mountains and lengths of rivers seem to be rather good exercises for memory than ascertained facts, yet we must presume that triangulation is gradually bringing the mountains at least into their proper place. Mount Hood, in Oregon, has undergone great reduction by this means. Once "roughly" estimated at 17,000 feet, and "closely" at 16,000, a triangulation brought it down to 13,000; an aneroid barometer is said to have made it 12,000, and a mercurial barometer reduced it to 11,225. Mount St. Elias has by similar processes been elevated from D'Agelet's estimate of 12,672 feet to 19,500, according to the triangulation of Mr. Baker. This may yet undergo some change, but from the account of Mr. Seton Karr it appears that the breadth of its form and the high mountains behind it caused Mount St. Elias to be underestimated, while the isolated position of Mount Hood caused the reverse. It is now stated that Mount Wrangel, some distance to the north of Mount St. Elias, rises 18,400 feet above the forks of Copper River, which are 2000 feet above the sea. If this estimate, made by Lieutenant Allen, is correct, Mount Wrangel is 1000 feet higher than Mount St. Elias, so that after all the United States possesses the highest peak on the North American continent.

ALASKA GLACIERS.—The country that intervenes between the St. Elias Alps and the sea, from Cross Sound to the Copper River (Alaska), with the exception of small areas of flat land east of Yakatat Bay, and east of Icy Bay, consists entirely of glaciers, the terminal moraines of which are so extensive that the ice lies buried under millions of tons and hundreds of square miles of loose rocks which it has carried down from the mountains. The Agassiz Glacier is probably about six hundred square miles in extent, while the Great Guyot Glacier, west of it, is of quite unknown area. The early navigators mistook the nature of the country. Vancouver describes it as "a barren country, composed of loose stones," and La Perouse mistook the protruding ice for snow lying on the ground.

Africa. THE MAKUA.—The article by J. T. Wills, entitled "Between the Nile and the Congo," in the May issue of the *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society*, is sad reading. It gives the history of the explorations carried on, and also of the wars and intrigues that have followed one another in the fertile water-shed of the Nile. Clearly the chief result of European exploration and feeble Egyptian interference has been to let the slave-trading Arabs into regions before unvisited by them, and the "brave men struggling to be free" of the Soudan prove, when looked at in the light of the lives of such men as Gordon, Lupton, Gessi, and others, whose lives or liberties have been sacrificed in the attempt to maintain order, to be bloodthirsty slave-hunters. The argument of the article, based upon the comparative volumes and directions of the respective rivers, is that the Makua, or Welle, is identical with the Mobangi tributary of the Congo, and cannot possibly be the Ardhe branch of the Shari. It at any rate appears certain that the Ngala, or Mungala, is not the Makua, since the former was found by Lieutenant Baert to have a breadth of only eleven yards and a depth of five feet, while the Welle at Ali Kobos in Bassange Land (in a straight line with the Ngala) was so wide that Dr. Junker could not determine it.

Asia. THE SARASWATI.—The importance ascribed in the Vedas to the river Saraswati, there called the "chief and purest of rivers," points, as stated by Mr. R. D. S. Oldham (*Proc. Asiatic Soc. of Bengal*), to some change in the hydrography of the region, since the stream now called the Saraswati is quite insignificant. Mr. Oldham is of opinion that the Jumna, within the recent period of geology, flowed towards the Punjab, and that it gradually abandoned this course for the present one, so that at the age of the Vedas part of the waters flowed to the Punjab and part to the Ganges, under the name of the Jumna. This change of course is similar to that known to have taken place in the Brahmaputra, which during the present century abandoned its old bed and joined the Ganges. Though the old bed receives no water from the main stream except when in flood, the Hindus still call it the Brahmaputra, while the new bed is named Jumna. A dry river-bed, known as the Hakra, Sankra, or Sotar, can be traced for many miles across the Indian Desert, and Mr. Oldham gives reasons for identifying it with the Sutlej.

PREJEVALSKY'S EXPLORATIONS.—Prejevalsky's journeys in Central Asia have probably done more towards the elucidation of the orography, hydrography, and ethnography of the region than those of any other traveller. His first journey (1871–73) was across the Gobi Desert, between Kiachta and Kalgan, and thence westward to Kansu in Western China. He visited Lake Koko Nor, ten thousand eight hundred feet above the sea, entered the saline marshy tract of the Tsaidam, and owing to want of resources was forced to return when about five hundred miles from L'hasa, crossing the Gobi at its widest part. In 1876 he advanced from Kuldja on the Ili (then Russian, but now Chinese), crossed the Thian-Shan into Chinese Turkestan, struck the Tarim, and followed that river to Lake Lob. He was the first European who in modern times has succeeded in reaching this lake. In this journey he discovered the Altyn-tagh, which rises as a precipitous northern boundary to the plateau of Tibet. In 1879, Prejevalsky went southward from Fort Zaisan, in Semipalatinsk, by Lake Uliunghar, and along its feeder, the Urungu, across the Desert of Dzungaria, to that of Gobi. The Dzungarian Desert is bounded on three sides by mountains, while on the east, where the Altai and Thian-Shan approach, an isthmus of sand unites it with the Gobi. It once formed a gulf of the great inland sea, the Kan-hai of the Chinese, which covered the Gobi in distant ages. The most characteristic plant of this and other Central Asian plains or deserts is the saxaul (*Haloxylon ammodendron*) or *zak* of the Mongols, a shrub about four feet high, and six to nine inches thick near the root. It is so brittle as to be useless for building, but yields excellent fuel. The wild horse is only met with in a corner of the desert of Dzungaria, the wild camel both there and near Lake Lob. Passing through the strategically-important Chinese town of Hami, our traveller crossed the desert at its narrowest place to An-si-chau, and then rested awhile at the fine oasis of Shachau, at the foot of the Nan-shan range. Crossing the Nan-shan, he made his way, in spite of much quiet opposition from the Chinese, to the Mur-ussu, the head-waters of the Yang-tse-Kiang. An uninterrupted gigantic mountain wall stretches from the Hoang-Ho to the Pamir, dividing the great plateau of Central Asia into two parts,—the Mongolian Desert on the north and Tibet on the south. Tsaidam, or Zaidam, may be considered a part of the Tibetan plateau, but is enclosed all around by mountains; southward by the Kuen-luin, which under various names extends from the sources of the Yarkand River far into China proper, and to the north by the Altyn-tagh and Nan-shan. The wild yak, which appears to be found in herds as numerous as once those of the bison in North America, never utters a sound, while the domestic one grunts like a pig.

The pass over the Tang-la range is sixteen thousand seven hundred feet high, but only two thousand one hundred feet above the Mur-ussu, and two thousand above that of the Sang-chu, which is believed to join the Salwin. The chain of lakes, Chargutcho, Amdo-tsonak, etc., and all the streams north of Lhasa, between the Tang-la and Northern Himalaya ranges, including the Sang-chu, flow into the Nap-chu or Kara-assu, which, if not the Salwin, must be the Irawadi. Thus the upper courses of this river and of the Brahmaputra flow for an immense distance from west to east, separated by the Northern Himalayas. Entrance into L'hasa was positively refused, and Prejevalsky returned when within one hundred and seventy miles of it.

On his fourth journey (1883–85) he left Kiachta, and thence from Urga crossed the Gobi to Ala-shan. Leaving a depot at the foot of the Burhan-Buddha, one of the ranges of the Kuen-Lun, he started to explore the sources of the Hoang-Ho, known as the Odontala, or thousand springs. Crossing to the Bhu River, the Di-chu of the Tangutans, the upper course of the Yang-tse, he found it too deep and wide to cross, and proceeded thence to the valley between the Chemen-tagh and the Kuen-Lun. The descent from this gradually-rising valley to Cherchen in the Tarim Desert is so easy that it was probably in ancient times the caravan route between Khoten and China. The Kuen-Lun was found to culminate in the snowy group of Jing-ri (90° E. lat.). He then crossed an unexplored plateau to Lob Nor and visited the oases of Cherchen, Kiria, Nia, and Khoten.

MR. CAREY'S JOURNEY.—Mr. Carey, of the Bombay Civil Service, has during the last two years been engaged in exploring Central Asia. His associate is Mr. Andrew Dalglaish, and the rest of the party is made up of pony-drivers and servants. Without any armed escort, but provided with a passport from

Peking, he has made his way quietly among people with whom the Russian explorer came into collision. Passing through Ladak, Mr. Carey proceeded to Northern Tibet, and thence to the plains of Turkestan, near Kiria. From Kuchar the Tarim was followed to Lake Lob. From thence the intention was to go over the Altyn-tagh, but nothing has since been heard from him.

MANCHURIA.—Since their journey to the Peishan Mountain and the sources of the Sangari, Messrs. James, Younghusband, and Fulford have visited some other parts of Manchuria. Colonists were perpetually arriving in Northern Manchuria, but brigandage is rife, and for the most part goes on unpunished, as the Manchu semi-military administration is most effete. The country is very fertile, and only needs good government and security to life and property.

•GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

Notes on the Geology and Lithology of Lake Superior.—At the meeting of the Denison Scientific Association, Granville, Ohio, held April 23, a paper was presented by Messrs. Jones and Tight embodying the results of an excursion to Michipicoten Bay, undertaken by members of the class of lithology, conducted by the professor of geology in Denison University. In a more complete form this paper appears in the laboratory bulletin of the same college, volume ii., art. v., from which the following abstract and the accompanying plates are taken.

The field chosen contains good exposures of three of the great classes of Lake Superior rocks now under discussion. Especially good contacts between the schists regarded as Huronian and the granites variously classed as Laurentian or local-eruptive are afforded at many places along shore. Commenting on McFarlane's description of these contacts, Wadsworth says (" Azoic System," p. 346), " His observations show clearly that both formations here are eruptive and of the same geological age." The present paper shows that McFarlane overlooked the sharply-defined contact between the great dyke of " dense basaltic greenstone, having the peculiar dolerytic glitter" (a typical coarse diabase), and the series of (here hornblendic) schists which are at places greatly contorted by the influence of the granite and the diabases. The schists can everywhere be easily distinguished from the penetrating dykes, which lie in strike or dip. They are prevailingly chloritic, containing large quantities of calcite. At more or less regular intervals are beds of schist-conglomerate, which are regarded by the writers as true basement conglomerates. The pebbles are sometimes very large, and consist of granite and felsite-porphyry, often retaining the primitive jointing planes. The schists are here and there perforated by belts of felsite-porphyry, the feldspar being chiefly oligoclase. An